

**MINUTES OF THE
CHILD WELFARE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT PANEL**
Thursday, October 21, 2004 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W025 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Dan R. Eastman, Senate Chair
Rep. Mike Thompson, House Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. David Litvak
Rep. Steven R. Mascaró

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Research Analyst
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Cathy Dupont, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of related materials can be found at www.le.utah.gov or by contacting the committee secretary, Wendy Bangerter, at 538-1032. A recording of the meeting is available from the committee secretary.

1. Committee Business

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Litvak moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2004 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Davis was absent for the vote.

2. How Utah's Child Welfare Outcomes Compare to Other States

Mr. Richard Anderson, Director, Division of Child and Family Services, gave a presentation showing data comparing Utah's child welfare system to those of other states in the nation (copy of presentation on file).

3. Office of Services Review – Annual Report

Mr. Andrews distributed "A System Review of the Division of Child and Family Services," the FY 2004 annual report by the Office of Services Review.

4. Compliance with Time Limits – Annual Reports

Ms. Katie Gregory, Administrative Office of the Courts, reviewed the statutory report from the courts previously distributed to the Panel, and discussed specifically child welfare cases not in compliance with statutory time limits for various hearings.

Ms. Carol Verdoia, Child Protection Division, Office of the Attorney General, reviewed the statutory report from the Attorney General's office previously distributed to the Panel, and also discussed specifically cases not in compliance with statutory time limits for various hearings.

5. Pilot Program for Differentiated Responses to Child Abuse and Neglect Reports – Sunset Review

Mr. Andrews provided an overview of the legislative sunset review process and explained that the pilot program for differentiated responses to child abuse and neglect reports will sunset July 1, 2005.

Mr. Richard Anderson, Director, Division of Child and Family Services, reported on the "family assessment" pilot program. He indicated that the practices envisioned by the legislation have been

incorporated in the Division's practice model and that the Division does not see a need to reauthorize the statute.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to recommend allowing the pilot program to sunset. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Mascaro was absent for the vote.

6. Discussion of Individual Child Welfare Case

MOTION: Rep. Litvak moved to close the meeting to discuss an individual case.

Rep. Thompson read the following statement: "The last item of business is a discussion of an individual case. The Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel has authority to close this meeting, upon a two-thirds majority vote of those present, to discuss an individual case, pursuant to Utah Code Section 62A-4a-207(5)(b) and Utah Code Section 52-4-5(1)(a)(i)."

The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Mascaro was absent for the vote.

The following were present during the closed portion of the meeting: Rep. Thompson, Sen. Eastman, Sen. Davis, Rep. Litvak, Mr. Andrews, Ms. Dupont, Ms. Bangerter, Mr. Richard Anderson, DCFS, Mr. Adam Trupp, DCFS, and Ms. Robin Arnold-Williams, Department of Human Services.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to end the closed portion of the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Mascaro absent for the vote.

7. Other Business

There was none discussed.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Mascaro absent for the vote.

Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.